

July 21, 2000

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SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD
Executive Committee Meeting
Public Conference Call in Ariel Rios Room 6013
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
May 30, 2000

I. Attendees

Dr. Morton Lippmann, Chair
Dr. Richard Bull
Dr. Kenneth Cummins
Dr. Janet Johnson
Dr. Roger Kasperon
Dr. Joe Mauderly
Dr. W. Randall Seeker
Dr. Mark Utell

Other SAB members

Dr. Michael McFarland, EEC

Moderator in Ariel Rios Room 6013

Dr. Donald Barnes, Designated Federal Officer

Others present in Room 6013 and on the phone (as they identified themselves) are listed on the sign-in sheet (Attachment A).

II. Agenda

The meeting proceeded in accord with the attached agenda (Attachment B).

III. Review Reports

A. Consideration of Environmental Engineering Committee (EEC)'s "*Review of the Agency's Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program*" (Attachment C)

Dr. Michael McFarland, Chair of the EEC Subcommittee that drafted the report, introduced by the document.

Dr. Janet Johnson (Lead Discussant) submitted written comments (Attachment D) and endorsed the report, suggesting modest changes that would clarify the document and the program it describes.

Dr. Richard Bull (Associate Discussant) also submitted written comments (Attachment E) and endorsed the report and made additional suggestions for sharpening the document. Dr. Seeker (Attachment F) and Dr. Lippmann (Attachment G) both cautioned against making a system that is too rigid and bureaucratic. Rather, it is more important to have input from parties that are capable and independent than to have input from particular parties positioned at particular levels in the hierarchy. Dr. Seeker went on to raise a question about the relative emphasis given to a policy question in the last paragraph of the transmittal letter; i.e., the application of the Agency's Quality System to the work of verification partners and subcontractors. The EC agreed that the report would be improved if that paragraph were removed from the transmittal letter, but retained in the text of the report.

Dr. Kasperson made clarifying comments on the report, while signaling his endorsement.

ACTION 1: The Executive Committee (EC) approved the Environmental Engineering Committee's *"Review of EPA's Environmental Technology Verification Program"*, subject to final edits discussed during the EC meeting.

B. Consideration of Drinking Water Committee's draft *"Science Advisory Board Report on EPA's Draft Proposal on a Groundwater Rule"* (Attachment H)

Dr. Bull introduced the report.

Dr. Cummins (Lead Discussant) endorsed the report, noting he had submitted modest written comments (Attachment H).

Dr. Smith (Associate Discussant) was not on the call.

Several other EC members explicitly endorsed the report, making modest editorial comments.

ACTION 2: The Executive Committee (EC) approved the Drinking Water Committee's *"Science Advisory Board Report on EPA's Draft Proposal on a Groundwater Rule"*, subject to final edits discussed during the EC meeting and input from Dr. Smith, the Associate Discussant.

IV. Future EC meetings

Dr. Utell, Chair and Co-Chair of the Panels whose reports (EHC report on Children and Cancer and EC Subcommittee report on Data from the Testing of Human Subjects) are slated for review on June 16, recommended that one hour be set aside for the discussion of each of the reports.

Since there are two additional reports that are awaiting EC action (EEAC's Review of the White Paper on Benefits Assessment and EEC's Review of the Agency's Research on Natural Attenuation), Dr. Lippmann announced that another EC conference call will be held in late-June.

Dr. Lippmann also gave a preview of the EC meeting to be held in Research Triangle Park, NC, on July 12-13.

V. Developments stemming from May 1 discussion of Residual Risk Subcommittee report on secondary lead smelters.

Dr. Barnes updated the EC on developments, including the draft Commentary (Attachment J) and the May 10 meeting with representatives of OAR (Attachment K). He also reported that Dr. Hopke, Residual Risk Subcommittee Chair, will be meeting Mr. Robert Perciasepe (AA/OAR) in early July and later in the day with Congressional staff. The intent is to discuss the content of the Residual Risk Report on secondary lead smelters that was forwarded to the Administrator last week.

The ensuing discussion by EC members revealed a preference to both: a) send a Commentary to the Administrator, and b) pursue the larger issue in a separate EC-directed project that would involve all of the SAB Committees.

INSTRUCTION 1: The Chair instructed the SAB Staff to re-draft the "*Executive Committee Commentary on Residual Risk Program*"

INSTRUCTION 2: The Chair will appoint a task group to formulate a proposal for an SAB-wide project to address the broader issues stemming from the consideration of the Residual Risk Program. The task group will report back at the July EC meeting.

INSTRUCTION 3: The Chair instructed the SAB Staff to ensure that time be placed on the agenda of the July meeting to discuss the broader issues stemming from the consideration of the Residual Risk Program. Dr. Hopke should be involved to join in by phone on that part of the EC meeting. Representatives from the Agency should also be involved in the discussion.

INSTRUCTION 4: The Chair instructed the Chairs of the SAB Committees to begin collecting, based upon the experience of their Committees, examples of instances in which there was (and was not) good communication between the decision maker (e.g., the Agency or the Congress) and the scientific

community inside and outside the Agency. Use of both current and previous members was encouraged.

V. Adjournment

With no other business to come before the EC, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM EST.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/

Donald G. Barnes, Ph.D.
Designated Federal Officer

Certified as True,

/s/

Morton Lippmann, Ph.D.
Interim Chair, Executive Committee

ATTACHMENTS

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Executive Committee Meeting
Public Conference Call in Room Ariel Rios 6013
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. Washington, DC
May 30, 2000

Attachment A -- Sign-in sheets

Attachment B -- Agenda

Attachment C -- Environmental Engineering Committee's (EEC) draft *"Review of EPA's Environmental Technology Verification Program"*

Attachment D -- Written comments of Dr. Johnson on the EEC's draft report

Attachment E -- Written comments of Dr. Bull on the EEC's draft report

Attachment F -- Written comments of Dr. Seeker on the EEC's draft report

Attachment G -- Written comments of Dr. Lippmann on the EEC's draft report

Attachment H -- Drinking Water Committee's (DWC) *"Science Advisory Board Report on EPA's Draft Proposal on a Groundwater Rule"*

Attachment I -- Written comments of Dr. Cummins on the DWC's draft report

Attachment J -- Draft Executive Committee *"Commentary on Residual Risk program"*, dated May 17, 2000

Attachment K -- "Discussion of EC Commentary Stemming from Consideration of Residual Risk Report", dated May 17, 2000.

Attachment L -- Summary of EC's Minutes of May 1, 2000 Public Conference Call

**ACTION AND INSTRUCTION ITEMS STEMMING FROM
SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL
May 30, 2000**

[Full text of minutes is available on SAB Website: www.epa.gov.sab/]

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